

IN THE CLAIMS

1-9. Cancelled.

10-28. Cancelled

29. (Previously Presented) A method for reducing subterranean aqueous fluid flow into a well drilled through a hydrocarbon-bearing formation, comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a composition comprising water soluble hydrophobically-modified polymers having a linear hydrophilic backbone with hydrophobic side groups along said backbone and functional groups for cross-linking said polymers;

(b) allowing said composition to contact said formation; and

(c) cross-linking said hydrophobically-modified polymers of the composition to form a cross-linked gel selectively reducing said subterranean aqueous fluid flow.

30-35. Cancelled.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the hydrophobically-modified polymers comprise poly(acrylamide).

37-48. Cancelled.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein the functional groups for crosslinking comprise chromium (III).